

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04873 011142Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /020 W
-----028587 011147Z /47

O R 011041Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECSTATE WASHDC 4210

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4873

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M; IBS; IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - SECRETARY VANCE'S MIDEAST TRIP

1. AUGUST 1 ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA CARRY BRIEF
ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMENCEMENT SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AREA.

2. BAATH'S "WITH THE EVENTS" COLUMN BY MOHAMMAD MUSOUR
TAKES PESSIMISTIC VIEW THAT SECRETARY IS BRINGING WITH
HIM A PEACE PLAN UNACCEPTABLE TO ARABS. MUSOUR WRITES:
"ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS VANCE WILL BE CARRYING
A PEACE PLAN THAT CALLS FOR RECONVENING GENEVA WITHOUT
THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO, WHICH WOULD BE REPLACED BY
"MODERATE" PALESTINIAN FIGURES...ALSO THIS PLAN CALLS FOR
AN ISRAELI MANDATE OVER THE WEST BANK FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS,
AFTER WHICH ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD UNDER INTERNATIONAL
SUPERVISION TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THE WEST
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BANK WANTS." MUSOUR CONCLUDES: "WHAT AMERICA WANTS WITH
THIS NEW PLAN IS AN OFFICIAL ARAB ENDORSEMENT OF THE
LEGALITY OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK. SINCE
AMERICA KNOWS THE ARABS WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THIS...THIS
AMOUNTS TO AN AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO EMBARASS THE ARABS AND
PORTRAY THEM AS INSINCERE ABOUT SEEKING REAL PEACE."

3. TISHRINE PUBLISHES COLUMN BY GHALIB KAYYALI DATE-LINED LONDON UNDER CAPTION: "THE NEW EQUATIONS ON WHICH VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR IS BASED." KAYYALI NOTES PESSIMISTIC VIEW BRITISH JOURNALISTS GENERALLY HOLD CONCERNING POSSIBLE RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO PAVE THE WAY FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE CITES "RETREAT" IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND NEED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO PRE-1967 BORDERS WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS. KAYYALI BELIEVES PRESIDENT CARTER IS "CAUGHT IN MIDDLE" BETWEEN CONFLICTING VIEWS WITHIN TWO TASK GROUPS WITHIN ADMINISTRATION: THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE ADVISORS. KAYYALI DESCRIBES SECRETARY VANCE AS MAN OF PRINCIPLE WHO APPRECIATES DANGERS OF CONTINUED DEADLOCK IN M.E. ON OTHER HAND, HE DESCRIBES WHITE HOUSE GROUP HEADED BY BRZEZINSKI AS HAVING FALLEN TO PRESSURE BY ZIONIST LOBBY. HE WRITES: "ANYBODY WHO HAS FOLLOWED BRZEZINSKI'S STATEMENTS HAS CERTAINLY NOTED INCREASING SURRENDER TO ZIONIST PRESSURE AND A DRIFT AWAY FROM THE BROOKINS STUDY...WHICH HAS INSPIRED CARTER'S M.E. POLICY."

KEITH

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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